

Message Text

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12
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W
----- 019717
R 221025Z AUG 73
FM AMEMBASSY BERN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8117
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 3494

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, KS
SUBJECT: ROK EFFORTS CONTACT EUROPEAN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES

REF: SEOUL 4250

1. NEW KOREAN AMBASSADOR HERE, LEE TONG WON, CALLED ON ME AUGUST 20 AND INTER ALIA DEVELOPED PROPOSITION PARAGRAPH TWO REFERENCE TELEGRAM. HE SAID HIS ASSIGNMENT WAS "PARTIALLY MOTIVATED" BY HIS GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE THAT HE OPEN CONTACTS WITH USSR AND EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WITH ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE GAINING THEIR DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION.

2. HE DID NOT REPEAT NOT REFER TO DESIRE EXPRESSED REFTEL THAT HIS PLANS NOT BE DISCUSSED WITH OTHER KOREANS. HE DID NOT ASK THAT WE PROVIDE CHANNEL FOR HIS CORRESPONDING WITH EMBASSY SEOUL.

3. HE ASKED THAT WE PUT HIM IN TOUCH WITH LOCAL USSR EMBASSY. AS DEPARTMENT KNOWS, THERE IS NEW SOVIET AMBASSADOR HERE WHO DELAYED MAKING HIS PROTOCOL CALLS UNTIL RECENTLY BECAUSE OF HOSPITALIZATION. IN RECENT YEARS THERE HAS BEEN PRACTICE OF OCCASIONAL BILATERAL LUNCHES WITH SOVIETS. I WILL HOST LUNCH FOR THEM IN OCTOBER. I AM QUITE PREPARED TO SOUND OUT NEW SOVIET AMBASSADOR ABOUT MEETING WITH NEW KOREAN AMBASSADOR IN APPROPRIATE SOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES EVEN EARLIER AND WILL DO SO IF DEPARTMENT DEEMS IT ADVISABLE. WOULD APPRECIATE AS WELL ANY SPECIAL GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT THINKS APPROPRIATE.
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